

## REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 3, 2002, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above amendments and consider the following remarks. A marked-up version of the changes is attached hereto. A new figure 4 has been proposed, and the specification has been amended to reflect the new figure. Claims 1-26 are still pending in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and accompanying remarks.

### Objections to Drawings

The Examiner's objections to the drawings filed with the case are hereby noted. In particular, the Examiner objected that the drawings do not show a reinforcement panel. Accordingly, a proposed drawing is attached which shows a reinforcement panel. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

### Rejection of Claims 1-26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Manning et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Manning et al. fails to teach or even suggest the vinyl siding panel of the present invention. Most importantly, Manning et al. does not teach or suggest a siding panel having the surface variance set forth in claim 1 or the radius curvature set forth in claim 14. In fact, the figures of Manning et al. indicate a significant amount of curvature, and there is nothing in the text of Manning et al. to indicate that the curvature is within the limits set forth in claim 1 or claim 14.

In addition, Manning et al. does not teach or suggest the height of its seam(s). Manning et al. does not specifically set forth the dimensions in the figures, and Manning et al. does not indicate that the drawings are to scale. Although some preferred dimensions for the height of a siding panel are provided in the description, Manning et al. declares in column 2, lines 8-10, that the siding panel is not limited to those dimensions. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the height of seams in Manning et al. is not inherent and cannot be determined.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Manning et al. cannot support the rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

#### CONCLUSION

The Applicant has distinguished claims 1-26 over the cited reference. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

Please delete lines 12-16 on page 3 and substitute the following:

Figure 1 is a side elevation view of a vinyl siding panel having significantly curved rows.

Figure 2 is a side elevation view of one embodiment of a vinyl siding panel of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a side elevation view of one embodiment of a calibrator of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a side elevation view of one embodiment of a vinyl siding panel of the present invention that includes a reinforcement panel.

**IN THE DESCRIPTION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20, as follows:

- If desired, a reinforcement panel may be secured to, or positioned behind, the inner surface of the vinyl siding panel **20**. For example, a foam reinforcement panel may be secured to the inner surface of the vinyl siding panel **20** by an adhesive. The reinforcement panel may tend to further straighten out rows **22**, **24**, **26** of the vinyl siding panel **20**. Nevertheless, it should be recognized that the dimensions of the planar portion(s) discussed above are taken prior to the application of a reinforcement panel or any other straightening means. Figure 4 shows an exemplary embodiment in which a reinforcement panel **90** is secured to the vinyl siding.